

September 20, 1954

Dr. R. Devignat  
B.P. 1815  
E'ville, Congo Belge

Dear Dr. Devignat:

Please forgive me in being so late in replying to your letter of August 16. It arrived while I was away from Madison, and there was a further delay occasioned by my enquiries of other workers.

I am sorry that I would personally be in a poor position to undertake a laboratory confirmation of your most interesting findings on the possible hybridization of *Pasteurella pestis*. We are, however, preoccupied with work on other organisms with a laboratory routine that precludes another type of pathogen. I would add that my own experience with this organism has been nil, so that my own findings, even if confirmatory, could hardly be authoritative. But do not conclude that I am not deeply interested in your work, and I would like to add my own good offices as far as possible. To that end, I had already written to Dr. E. Englesberg at the University of California (cf. J. Bact., 63: 675) but he ~~also~~ has just moved to another laboratory where he could not conveniently take up this problem. There are, however, several other persons whom I have not yet contacted who might be quite interested. I shall write to them and, if a favorable response is obtained, will get in touch with you again.

Meanwhile, let me express my appreciation for your consideration of my advice, and my hope for your continued interest in this aspect of your research. I would be particularly grateful for a continued exchange of publications.\*

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

\* I must report that I have not yet received the report you mentioned as having just appeared in the B. O. M.S.

cf. Stocker 1959